

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 GAC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01

SCI-06 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 INRE-00 AF-10

ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 /177 R

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062618

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE LEGAL: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON MOON
TREATY

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR VORONTSOV CALLED ON ASST SECRETARY DE PALMA APRIL 4 TO DELIVER DEMARCHE URGING THAT US DROP INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION PROVISION IN MOON TREATY, COUPLED WITH GENERAL PLEA FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND USSR DELEGATIONS TO LSC. DE PALMA AGREED THAT US WOULD CONSIDER DEMARCHE, BUT POINTED TO OTHER UNRESOLVED ISSUES IN MOON TREATY - ON SCOPE AND NATURAL RESOURCES. DE PALMA ALSO BRIEFLY RAISED US DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION, EXPRESSING VIEW THAT USSR SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT IT. END SUMMARY.

2. VORONTSOV, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW, MADE STRONG PITCH FOR US TO DROP INSISTENCE ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION.
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TION PROVISION AND FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND SOVIET LSC DELS. ACCORDING TO SOVIET LSC DELEGATION, HE SAID, US DELEGATION IS ACTING ON BASIS OF " INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS" AND HAS HAD " PROBLEM" OBTAINING NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. (COMMENT: IMPLICATION OF ABOVE IS THAT SOVIETS ARE AWARE THAT US HAS FALLBACK POSITION ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND VORONTSOV OBVIOUSLY FISHING FOR US DECISION TO USE IT. END COMMENT)

3. VORONTSOV ARGUED THAT US ADVANCE NOTIFICATION PROVISION IS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR SUPPORTED BY PRECEDENT IN EARLIER TREATIES DEALING WITH OUTER SPACE. HE URGED THAT US ACCEPT SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR NOTIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER LAUNCH AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON MISSION RESULTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER COMPLETION OF MISSION. ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET PROPOSAL, HE SAID, WOULD UNTIE KNOT WHICH HAS BEEN BLOCKING PROGRESS IN OTHERWISE VERY GOOD WORK.

4. DE PALMA REPLIED THAT PERHAPS PROBLEM WAS THAT US BELIEVED ITS INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS WERE STILL GOOD INSTRUCTIONS AND USSR STILL SEEMS TO BE OPERATING ON BASIS OF ITS ORIGINAL POSITION. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT WE WOULD GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO VORONTSOV DEMARCHE, BUT NOTED THAT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION PROVISION WAS WIDELY SUPPORTED AMONG OTHER LSC DELS. DE PALMA ADDED THAT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IS NOT ONLY UNRESOLVED ISSUE IN MOON TREATY NEGOTIATION. AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF SCOPE AND NATURAL RESOURCES. AFTER LISTENING TO BRIEF OUTLINE OF US POSITION ON TWO ISSUES, VORONTSOV REPEATED STANDARD LINE ON SCOPE, BUT EXPRESSED UNFAMILIARITY WITH NATURAL RESOURCE (" COMMON HERITAGE") ISSUE. HE AGREED TO FORWARD OUR VIEWS ON SCOPE AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO MOSCOW FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

5. DE PALMA ALSO MADE BRIEF MENTION OF THE US DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION, SAYING THAT WE BELIEVED DRAFT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH US AND USSR AND WOULD BE SURPRISED IF SOVIETS HAD ANY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH IT. VORONTSOV REPLIED THAT LACK OF DEFINITIVE SOVIET REACTION DOES NOT IMPLY SIGNIFICANT DISAGREEMENT BUT REFLECTS CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFORT TO OBTAIN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE FROM VARIOUS

CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS IN MOSCOW. ROGERS

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